

# **Precautions when using Kerosene Heaters and Generators**

The improper use of kerosene heaters and generators can become deadly if homeowners do not follow manufacturer's instructions.

It is important to take precautionary safety measures such as allowing adequate ventilation to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning and avoid fire hazards.

## ***Kerosene Heaters***

Ensure your kerosene heater is only operated in a **well-ventilated area**. Leave a door open to the rest of the house or keep an outside window open to ensure an adequate flow of fresh air.

To avoid the **risk of fire**, you should place kerosene heaters several feet away from all furniture, curtains, paper, clothes, bedding and other combustible materials. As an added safety measure, have a fire extinguisher close by.

## ***Generators***

Generators should only be operated in **well ventilated locations**; outdoors away from all doors, windows and vent openings so that exhaust fumes cannot enter the home

Do not **refuel** the generator while it is running, it should be turned off and allowed to cool down before refueling.

Kerosene heaters and generators produce carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide is a silent, deadly killer...it is colorless, odorless and can go undetected until it is too late.

## ***Carbon Monoxide Poisoning***

**Symptoms** include shortness of breath, nausea, fatigue, headache, dizziness, or blurred vision. If you think you are suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning you should get fresh air immediately. Open doors and windows, turn off combustion appliances and seek immediate medical attention.

**Carbon monoxide poisoning is treatable.** If you are experiencing symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, contact the Poison Control hotline at (800) 222-1222.